



Making Tracks
 Missouri Department of Conservation
 2360 Hwy D
 St. Charles, MO 63304
www.conservation.state.mo.us

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 MO DEPT OF CONSERVATION



August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area
Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center
Rockwoods Reservation



Making Tracks

April 2003 Volume 03, Number 4


Distant Booming

By Shanna Raeker, Naturalist

Why don't we hear the booming of the greater prairie chicken in St. Louis anymore? In pre-settlement times, 61 percent of St. Louis City and 17 percent of St. Louis County were covered by prairie habitat. Many species like the greater prairie chicken and bison could be found in the St. Louis area. If you look around today, you won't find much prairie here and you certainly won't see any prairie chickens.

There are a number of factors that have contributed to the decline of prairie chickens, but the biggest reason is habitat loss. Approximately 93 percent of original prairie chicken range is now gone. When settlers moved into Missouri, they soon found that the rich, deep prairie soils were a great place to grow their crops. Much of the land was converted to farmland and most of the remaining grasslands were overgrazed by livestock.

There are some tracts of prairie in Missouri that still support prairie chickens. However their populations are decreasing every year. Efforts are being made to restore prairie habitat so that many species can benefit, including the prairie chicken. Some of these efforts include planting native warm season grasses and prescribed burning. Without these management practices the current prairies could be lost to exotic species or overgrown by trees.

Prairie chickens will probably never return to St. Louis, but there is still hope for them in Missouri. We should support prairie restoration for prairie chickens and the many other species that call the prairie home. If we are successful, we will remember prairie chickens with more than a memory of distant booming. If you would like more information on prairie restoration check out the MDC website at www.conservation.state.mo.us and type "grasslands" in the search window. 

What is Booming?

Greater prairie chickens have a unique mating behavior. Each spring, especially in March and April, male prairie chickens gather in groups, called "leks." Each morning before the sun comes up, the leks flock to their booming grounds where they perform an elaborate show to attract mates.

The males strut around in a circle while stamping their feet and bobbing their heads. The tails and "horns" (feather tufts on their head) are kept erect during the display.

While all this is going on, they inflate and deflate the yellow-orange sacs on their throat, which makes a loud booming sound similar to the sound produced by blowing over the top of a bottle. The booming is so loud that it can sometimes be heard from a mile away.

If you'd like to hear prairie chickens booming, you can travel to southwest Missouri. Two of the best places to go are Hi Lonesome Prairie Conservation Area in Benton County and Prairie State Park in Barton County.

Making Tracks

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Thanks for all your effort and help!

Busch Conservation Area

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Powder Valley Nature Center

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 Linda Hibbitts.....400 hours
 Manry Frein.....300 hours
 David Herreid..... 200 hours

Rockwoods Reservation

Jim Westbury.....2300 hours
 Glenda Myers.....1850 hours
 John Schroderer.....950 hours
 Bob Ziegler.....150 hours




St. Louis Earth Day *"Passport to a Healthy Planet"*

The 2003 St. Louis Earth Day Festival will take place on Sunday, April 27, from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. All events will be on and around the Muny grounds in Forest Park. The theme of the festival is "Passport to a Healthy Planet"

I include highlighted areas such as "Clean Air," "Clean Water," "Healthy Land," and "Healthy Self." In addition, an "Art Village" will provide opportunities for creative expression and live entertainment. Festival goers will also have the chance to volunteer for service projects in the park. An Earth Day Run for the Rivers will take place in the morning.

In addition to the festival, you can celebrate Earth Day by picking up a Planetary Passport in March or April from local institutions. Families who participate in the "Earth Day Around Town" activities at these institutions will be eligible for rewards.

On Tuesday, April 22, there will be a symposium at the Missouri Botanical Garden entitled "Clean Water, Livable Cities: Models That Work." In conjunction with the conference, there will be watershed tours as well as a Missouri River barge trip with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. For more information, please check out the St. Louis Earth Day website at www.stlouisearthday.org. 

News from

Powder Valley

Conservation
Nature Center


Show-Me Missouri Fish Mobile Aquarium April 12 and 13

You’ve heard the expression “bird’s eye view.” We’ve got one even better. How about a fish’s eye view? See for yourself when the



Missouri Department of Conservation’s “Show-Me Missouri Fish” mobile aquarium comes to Powder Valley April 12 and 13.

The exhibit contains a natural setting of logs, rocks and plants

which features our more popular game fish along with those rarely seen by most people. Learn fish identification and ecology as well as fishing techniques. All ages can try our Virtual Fishing Simulator while the younger ones can practice on the casting lanes. Programs are 10 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., Noon - 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. No reservations are required. 

A Visit with Teddy Roosevelt Saturday, April 26 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Actor/historian Arch Ellwein of Montana captures the essence of the 26th President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, in this riveting, living-theatre presentation. Credited with placing 230 million acres of some of the nation’s most unique natural resources under permanent public protection, Roosevelt defined conservation. Learn about the former president’s environmental views and conservation policies. (For ages 12-Adult. Reservations begin April 11.)



11715 Cragwold Road
Kirkwood, MO 63122
(314) 301 - 1500

LOCATION:

From I-44 east in Kirkwood, take Watson Road, exit and turn north on Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road.

AREA HOURS:

Daylight Saving Time:
8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Central Standard Time:
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

NATURE CENTER HOURS:

Open all year, 7 days a week,
from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

GIFT SHOP HOURS:

Open all year, 7 days a week,
from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ABOUT THE AREA:

112 acres of forestland and winding creeks, three hiking trails (one wheelchair accessible). Open to visitors free of charge.



The Educators’ Niche

By Nancy Snider, Education Consultant

Key word: Symbol – a symbol is something that stands for or suggests something else by reason of relationship, association, or convention. *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*

State Symbols

What are our state symbols? Did you know we had a state aquatic animal? A state nut tree? How about a state insect and a state aquatic animal?


State Tree: The flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) is the state tree of Missouri. This is a small understory tree native to Missouri forests. It produces beautiful white flowers in mid- to late April. Dogwoods also have beautiful fall color. The leaves turn scarlet and orange and the fruits are bright red. The dogwood is a popular landscaping tree because of its beauty and ability to tolerate light shade. What better way to spend a day than by taking a walk among the dogwoods in the spring woods of Missouri.

State Flower: The white hawthorn blossom is the state floral emblem. Hawthorns (*Crataegus species*), members of the rose family, are small thorny trees that produce an abundance of flowers in the spring. The hawthorn flowers have greenish-yellow centers and form in white clusters. Small red-orange fruits are produced in late fall and persist into winter where they provide a feast for birds such as waxwings. There are many species of native hawthorns in Missouri. Native hawthorns and their cultivars are popular landscaping trees.

State Fish: Missouri’s state fish is the channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*). This is the most common catfish of Missouri ponds, lakes and streams. It is a popular game fish providing many hours of pleasurable fishing opportunities to the residents of Missouri. The catfish is also a favorite food. Is it possible to have a real Missouri fish fry without catfish? Visit the August A. Busch Conservation Area and try your hand at fishing for these “whiskered” fish. Catfish can be found in all the lakes on the area but are stocked through the summer in Lakes 6, 8, 11, 12, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 30, 33, 34 and 35.

State Aquatic Animal: The paddlefish is our state aquatic animal (*Polyodon spathula*). It is a primitive and unusual-looking fish. Paddlefish get their name from the flattish, paddle-like nose that makes up about 1/3 of their body size. The skeleton of this fish consists of cartilage rather than bone. Paddlefish commonly exceed 5 feet in length and a weight of 60 pounds. They can weigh up to 100 pounds.

State Insect: Our state insect is the honeybee (*Apis mellifera*). This Missouri Symbol is not native to Missouri. European settlers introduced the honeybee to North America hundreds of years ago. Honeybees are now found wild throughout Missouri and are cultivated like livestock by beekeepers. Although not natives, they are important economically to the state. The honeybee is the major pollinator of many field crops and almost all tree fruits. They also provide us with honey.

Want to learn more? Request the publication names listed above in the green box from any Missouri Department of Conservation Office or check out the websites for more information. 

FYI...

Websites relating to State Symbols:

www.sos.state.mo.us/symbols/
www.conservation.state.mo.us/fish/
www.conservation.state.mo.us/forest/
www.conservation.state.mo.us/fish/fishrt
www.conservation.state.mo.us/nathis/insects/

Department of Conservation publications relating to State Symbols:

Introduction to Missouri Fishes
Common Trees of Missouri
Missouri Urban Trees
Wasp and Bees
Basic Fishing

the Outdoor Teacher

The Outdoor Teacher Education Resource Center

Hours:

Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

(closed 11 a.m. - Noon for lunch)

1926 S. 12th St.

St. Louis, MO 63104

(314) 231-3803



April
& May
Feature!

Check out the special feature at
Missouri Department of
Conservation gift shops during April
and May 2003.

The softbound

Missouri Wildflowers

by Edgar Denison will be discounted 20%.
The price will be \$9.60 plus tax.
No other discounts will be available.

Ever wonder what kind of wildflower that was?

The fifth edition of Denison’s classic
work makes identifying common
Missouri wildflowers easy. Its 297
color photographs are arranged by
flower color and blooming time.
Plant characteristics, habitat and
range are provided. 256 pages.

20%
off



Bob Kitt Nature Photography Workshops Saturday, April 19 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. & 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.



Powder Valley is pleased to welcome photographer Bob Kitt as Resident Artisan. Bob Kitt is an instructor at St. Louis Community College. He received a B.A. degree from Webster University in 1992, an M.A. degree from Arkansas State University in 2000 and is currently completing the M.F.A. degree program at Lindenwood University.

Bob has been photographing animals and nature-related subjects for more than 10 years and has exhibited at locations such as the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Springfield Nature Center. In addition to exhibits, Bob has had articles and photos published in *Missouri Conservationist* and *National Parks* magazines. The flora and fauna of the Ozarks region of southern Missouri is the focus of Bob’s photography. “...with these images, I hope to show the public the beautifully diverse and fragile world of the remote areas of the Ozarks as well as reinforcing the importance of environmental conservation.”

On April 19, Bob will conduct a workshop on nature photography accompanied by a slide presentation. The workshop will include choice of film, equipment and techniques and tips for both close-up and landscape photography. Participants are encouraged to bring cameras and film of their choice. Reservations are required to attend the workshop.

In addition to conducting the workshop, Bob’s photographic exhibit “**OZARKS UPCLOSE**” will be on display at the Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center in April. This show consists of 30 Ilfochrome photographs taken in southern Missouri. Don’t miss this opportunity to experience nature photography up close.

News from
August A. **Busch** Memorial Conservation Area

Kids Fishing Fair 2003!

By Rhonda Anderson, Interpretive Programs Supervisor
It is that time of year again; time to take your favorite kids fishing! This yearly event teaches the whole family the ins and outs of fishing for catfish, panfish and bass. Children 15 and under can then try out their new skills in our specially stocked educational lakes. Missouri Department of Conservation staff and volunteers will be on hand to help teach your kids how to cast, catch the fish, and reel it in. Bring your own fishing equipment and bait; some loaner poles are available on a first-come basis.

Parents wanting to fish with their kids are welcome to visit our stocked catfish lakes: 3, 4, 5, 7 & 24

Visit the following education stations:

- Boating Safety
- Casting Range
- Catch & Release Fishing
- Fish Filleting & Cooking
- Fish ID
- Fly Tying & Fly Fishing
- Knot Tying & Baiting Hooks
- Live Turtles, Frogs, & Snakes
- Bait Concession
- Food Concession
- Fishing Instruction & Techniques For Beginners

Exotic Species vs. Diversity

By Lia Bollmann, Wildlife Biologist

A very serious factor reducing the diversity of our wild lands is the increasing invasion of natural communities such as prairies, wetlands and woodlands by exotic plants and animals. An exotic plant or animal species is one that has moved into a habitat where it was not originally found. Our native species, those which have been a part of the Missouri landscape since before European settlement, often cannot compete with these new invaders for resources such as food, water and space. The result is that the exotics continue to expand their range and displace our native species.

One example is bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*). This exotic shrub is very aggressive and has become established in the understory of many woodlands. It shades out native plants and inhibits their growth, often creating a woodland floor that consists only of this shrub. In addition, a recent study showed that American robins that built nests in honeysuckle bushes lost 25 percent more of their nests to predators than robins that nested in nearby native bushes (*Conservation Biology*, 1999). The choice to nest in bush honeysuckle is thought to be due to the fact that this exotic plant leafs out earlier than native shrubs, however, the benefit appears to be outweighed by the fact that fewer young survive.

Animals can be a problem too. Feral, or wild, hogs are from Europe and were brought to North America in the 1500s. Today we have several small, isolated populations mostly in southern counties, but their range continues to expand. Wild hogs compete with native wildlife for many food items including acorns, hickory nuts, roots, mushrooms, insects, berries and other fruits. In areas where they forage they root up the earth to depths of 6 inches or more and can cause erosion problems and affect survivability of some plant species.

As you can see, exotic species can have a significant negative impact on native wildlife and natural communities. For more information on exotic species in Missouri you can check out our website at www.conservation.state.mo.us and follow the links from "Nature" to "Exotic Species."

2360 Highway D
St. Charles, MO
63304
(636) 441 - 4554

LOCATION:

From Hwy 40, take 94 south to Hwy. D; turn west on D for approx. 1 mile.
From I-70, take 94/First Capitol exit; turn south on Hwy. 94 to Hwy. D; turn west on D for approx. 1 mile. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy. D.

HOURS:

Area is open from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. See area regulations for special hunt hours. Fishing hours are from 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. Rental boats are available April 1 through September 30. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. It is closed some state holidays.

ABOUT THE AREA:

6,987 acres with 32 lakes and 40 ponds totaling 526 acres of water for fishing. There are six viewing blinds (two are wheelchair accessible), seven hiking trails totaling 5 miles, picnic area, staffed firearms range, and fishing jetties (some are wheelchair accessible). The area has interpretive programs, exhibits and demonstration sites and is used by bicyclists.

News from
Rockwoods Reservation

A Lotta Lotus

By Keri Lanning, Naturalist

April marks the beginning of our spring field trip season at Rockwoods, and the majority of our time is spent at the pond doing numerous pond studies. Warm spring temperatures make the pond burst alive. Spring peepers and cricket frogs can be spotted along the shallow shoreline singing to near deafening levels; central newts can be seen hanging on small bits of coontail; and whirligig beetles do their clever ballet along the open surface of the pond. Unfortunately, this precious scene is lost by mid-June when our pond becomes a field of American lotus leaves swaying in the summer breeze.

American lotus is a very showy and beautiful native species within the waterlily family. Their large water-repelling leaves float on the surface when young and serve as a resting and sunning spot for many dragonflies and frogs. As the leaves mature they become stalked above the water surface. These stalks are used by dragonfly and damselfly larva as a roost during metamorphosis. In late June and early July lotus bloom. Their bloom is very dramatic, made up of 20 sepals and petals of light yellow and can reach 8 inches in diameter. The center of the flower is the elevated receptacle of the ovary. The root of this plant is tuberous and was an important food source for Native Americans.

With a description like this it is difficult to imagine that this plant is an aggressive aquatic nuisance plant and should be removed from small ponds as soon as it is discovered. The problem with this plant lies in its amazing ability to spread. For the most part, this plant spreads through its thick rhizomes that grow along the bottom of the pond. The spreading is assisted by the seed-producing receptacle, which produces about 36 seeds per plant, and each seed can remain dormant in the mud for more than 200 years! Lotus can cover a one-acre pond in three to four years and Rockwoods is a shining example of this. Lotus was discovered in a small corner of our pond four years ago and now this plant completely covers our pond.

We are taking measures to remove this plant. Manually cutting the leaves is one method that can be effective if the area of concern is small. Once the lotus has become established, herbicide is the most effective form of removal. Rodeo® herbicide is recommended because it chemically neutralizes in water and is listed as safe for fish. For more information about how to rid your ponds of lotus and other aggressive nuisance plants, contact the Missouri Department of Conservation St. Louis Regional Office at (636) 441-4554.

SHOOTING RANGE & TRAINING CENTER
INFORMATION
BUSCH RANGE **HENGES RANGE**

Located at the August A. Busch
Conservation Area at
2360 Hwy D
St. Charles, MO 63304

Hours for April 2003:
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friday-Tuesday
Closed Wednesday & Thursday
For more information,
call (636) 441-4554 ext. 251

Located at
1100 Antire Road
High Ridge, MO 63049
Hours for April 2003:
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday

Closed Monday & Tuesday,
Special Events & Holidays
For more information,
call (636) 938-9548

2751 Glencoe Road
Wildwood, MO 63038
(636) 458 - 2236

LOCATION:

From I-44, take Hwy. 109 (Eureka exit) north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road; follow signs.
From Hwy 40 (I-64), take Clarkson Road south to Manchester Road; right (west) on Manchester to Hwy. 109; left (south) on Hwy. 109, 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road; follow signs.
From Manchester Road, take Hwy. 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and immediately right on Glencoe Road; follow signs.

AREA HOURS:

Sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset.

VISITOR CENTER
HOURS:

Open seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., during March, April, May, June, September and October. The Visitor Center will be closed on weekends during July, August, November, December, January and February.

ABOUT THE AREA:

All facilities are free to the public, including:
*Education Center with exhibits and interpretive programs.
*1,898 acres of rugged, mostly hardwood, forested land interspersed with springs and streams.
*Three picnic areas (all with charcoal grills), two with drinking water, tables, and one with toilets.
*Seven trails (one is self-guided and wheelchair accessible) totaling more than 10 miles.

How to register for an APRIL program

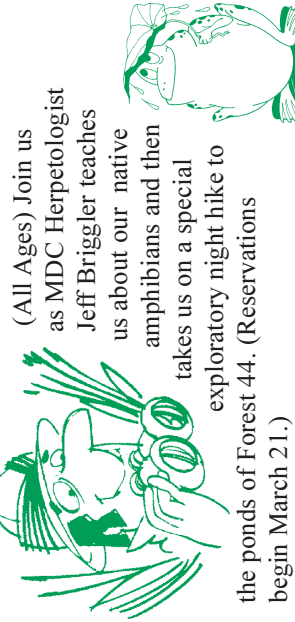
Reservations are required unless otherwise specified. Reservations will be taken Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Programs are intended for individuals and families only. Please limit requests to two programs per month, with only one to include an Ages 3-6 program. **Please be prompt. Arrival after 10 minutes may exclude you from the program.** Interpreting services are available for people with hearing loss, with five days advance notice. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel your reservation as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Rockwoods ext. 22, Powder Valley ext. 2225 and Busch ext. 307.

ROCKWOODS

For reservations, call (636) 458 - 2236

4 Amphibian Night at Forest 44

Friday 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.



(All Ages) Join us as MDC Herpetologist Jeff Briggler teaches us about our native amphibians and then takes us on a special exploratory night hike to the ponds of Forest 44. (Reservations begin March 21.)

9 After School Special: Pond Study

Wednesday 3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.

(Ages 7-12) Join us as we explore the pond ecosystem by looking at the plants and animals that reside in our fishless woodland pond. This program is outdoors so dress for a mess! (Reservations begin March 21.)

11 Night Critters

Friday 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

(Families) Come explore the night woods to hear the sounds of spring. (Reservations begin March 28.)

12 Attracting Hummingbirds

Saturday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(Families) Learn about these tiny jewels of the sky and how to make a feeder (one per family) to take home. Please bring a 16 oz. plastic water or soda bottle. (Reservations begin March 28.)

Fly Tying For Bluegill

Discovery Table

Saturday 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

(All Ages) Learn how to tie the basic bluegill “rubber legs” pattern from our local fly tyer. Then get outdoors and enjoy Missouri’s beautiful streams, ponds and lakes. (No reservations required.)

16 Caves of Missouri

Wednesday 10 a.m. – Noon & 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

(Ages 10 & up) Learn about the caves of Missouri by exploring Rockwoods Crawl Cave. (Reservations begin April 2.)

18 Wake-Up With The Birds

Friday 8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

(Ages 8 & up) Learn how to identify the migratory songbirds coming back into our forests and take a hike to find who is back! (Reservations begin April 4.)

Scout Discovery Table

Poisonous Things

Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(All Ages) This table helps to fulfill the following requirements: **Wolves:** Outdoor Adventures (Elective 18g); **Webelos:** Outdoor Group; Naturalist #6; **Juniors:** Let’s Get Outdoors; Wildlife #5; Plants and Animals #9. (No reservations required.)



Wildflower Hike

Saturday 10 a.m. – Noon

Wednesday 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. – Noon

Sunday 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

(Families) Join us to enjoy a hike along one of Rockwoods’ scenic trails and discover the wildflowers along the way. (Reservations begin April 4, 9 & 11, respectively.)

23

Toddling Into Nature

Spring Discovery Hike

Wednesday 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

(Ages 3-6) This multi-sensory hike will have students discovering the wonders of spring the only way kids know how – through the senses! (Reservations begin April 9.)

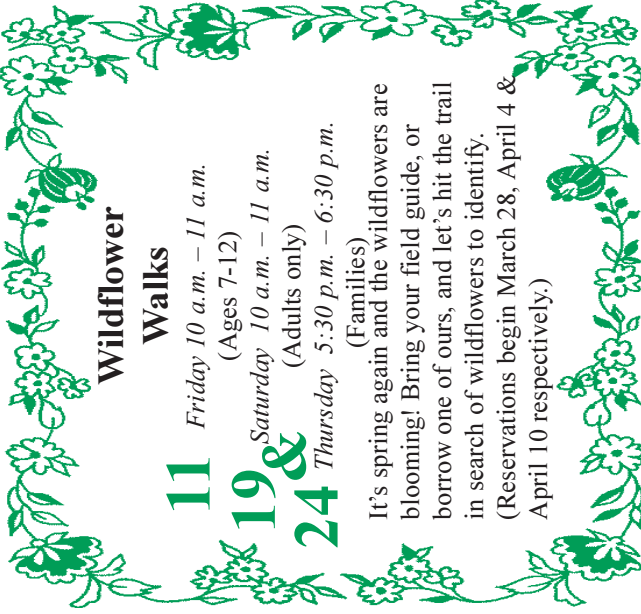
BUSCH AREA

For reservations, call (636) 441 - 4554

5 Wetlands for Kids

Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(Families) Learn all about wetlands and the critters that live there. Hands-on opportunities for the whole family! See the article in the March issue of *Making Tracks* on the Busch Page for more information. (No reservations required.)



Wildflower

Walks

11 Friday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

(Ages 7-12)

19 Saturday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

(Adults only)

24 Thursday 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

(Families)

It’s spring again and the wildflowers are blooming! Bring your field guide, or borrow one of ours, and let’s hit the trail in search of wildflowers to identify. (Reservations begin March 28, April 4 & April 10 respectively.)

Scout Discovery Table

Bird ID & Flyways

Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(Brownies, Juniors, Wolves & Webelos) Learn how to identify birds and discover the flyways they use during migration. **Wolves:** Birds Elective 13d; **Webelos:** Naturalist #3, #5; **Juniors:** Wildlife #3, #8. (No reservations required.)

12 Basic Fishing

Saturday 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.

(Ages 7-12) Come learn the basics needed to get you started enjoying this wonderful sport. Topics covered include rods, reels, line, knots and casting. Fishing poles will be provided. (Reservations begin March 28.)

12&26 Amphibian Night Hikes

Saturday 7 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. (Adults only)

Saturday 7 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. (Families)

Discover the amphibians that make their home at the Marais Temps Clair Conservation Area. A 20-minute introduction to the amphibians will be followed by a 2 hour (2 mile) hike to listen for their mating calls. Hike is on a gravel top levee. (Reservations begin March 28 & April 11, respectively.)

15

Hop To It!

Tuesday 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

& 11 a.m. – Noon

(Ages 3-6) What do you know about wascally rabbits? We’ll make a craft, read a story and play some rabbit games while learning about wild rabbits in Missouri. (Reservations begin April 1.)



16

Awesome Owls

Wednesday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

(Ages 8-12) Discover the wide variety of owls that live in our state. Find out what they like to eat by dissecting owl pellets! (Reservations begin April 2.)

BUSCH

SHOOTING RANGE & TRAINING CENTER

For reservations, call (636) 441-4554

8

NRA Home Firearm Safety

Tuesday 9 a.m. – Noon

(Ages 21 & up) Learn the basic elements of gun safety. Cost is \$7 per person. (Reservation required.)

2,9&16 NRA Basic Pistol Course

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

(Ages 21 & up) Three-day course provides basic knowledge necessary for using a handgun. \$7 per person.

POWDER VALLEY

For reservations, call (314) 301 - 1500

2 Hike on Broken Ridge Trail

Wednesday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

(Adults) Join a volunteer naturalist to see which birds, trees, wildflowers and butterflies are about. Dress for the weather. (Reservations begin March 19.)

5 Scout Discovery Table

Forest Trees

Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(All Ages) Discover the wonders of Missouri forests while working on badge activities. **Webelos** can complete Outdoor Group; Forester #3, #4. **Brownies** can work on What’s Out There?: Plants #4. **Juniors** can work on Let’s Get Outdoors: Earth Connections #3, #4, #8; Explore and Discover: Science Discovery #5. All are welcome. Check it out! (No reservations necessary.)

5&19 Identification of Missouri Common Trees

Saturday 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

(Adults) Walk a trail and identify our common trees. (Reservations begin March 21 and April 4, respectively.)

8&22 Canoeing For Beginners

Tuesday 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

(Ages 16 & up) A classroom situation on basic canoeing concepts, paddling techniques and maneuvers. (Reservations begin March 25 and April 8, respectively.)

9 In Celebration of Trees

Wednesday 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

(All Ages) Join us as we discuss the importance of trees to the environment and celebrate Arbor Day 2003. Program includes a tree identification hike and a seedling to take home. Frontiers Connection: Portions of Activity #97. (Reservations begin March 26.)

12 Emmenegger Hike

1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

(Ages 7 & up) Walk the Emmenegger trails with us and identify the spring wildflowers in bloom. Meet at the Emmenegger parking lot. Dress for the weather. (Reservations begin March 28 and April 9, respectively.)

17 Rocking Chair Storytime

Thursday 10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

& 1 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

(All Ages) Enjoy a fun-packed time of stories, puppets and surprises galore! (No reservations required.)

19 Resident Artisan

Bob Kitt

Nature Photography Workshop

Saturday 10 – 11:30 a.m. & 1 – 2:30 p.m.

(Ages 16 & up) Photographer Bob Kitt will conduct a workshop on nature photography that will include techniques and tips for both close-up and landscape photography. Participants are encouraged to bring their own cameras and film of their choice. (Reservations begin April 4.)

30 Hike On Hickory Ridge Trail

Wednesday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

(Adults) Join a volunteer to see which birds, trees, wildflowers and butterflies might be about. Dress for the weather. (Reservations begin April 16.)

HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

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Bee A Pollinator!

Wednesday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

(Ages 3-6) Bees are busy buzzy critters. You would be too if you had all those flowers to pollinate. Discover through story, activity and craft how bees and plants are important to one another.

(Ages 7-12) Can you spot a pollinator? Learn how bees and plants depend on each other to make it through their life cycles. (Reservations begin April 9.)